

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 305278

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. LEBANON

A. IS THE GOL FINALLY GETTING TOUGH?

REUTER REPORTS THAT LEBANON'S HIGHER COORDINATING COMMITTEE HAS ORDERED SECURITY FORCES IN BEIRUT TO CLEAR THE CAPITAL'S STREETS OF ARMED MEN BY 4:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME DECEMBER 31. ANYONE CARRYING ARMS IN THE STREET AFTER THE DEADLINE IS TO BE SHOT ON SIGHT. MEANWHILE, THE SECURITY SITUATION REMAINS CALM.

B. OUTLINE OF A SETTLEMENT

EMBASSY BEIRUT HAS LEARNED OF A POSSIBLE AGREEMENT BETWEEN SYRIA AND A FRANGIE REPRESENTATIVE ON THE PRINCIPLES FOR A  
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SETTLEMENT. THE DETAILS INCLUDE:

--THE CONTINUATION OF FRANGIE IN OFFICE AND AS SPOKESMAN FOR THE CHRISTIANS;

--A MAJOR SYRIAN EFFORT TO UNITE THE SPLINTERED MOSLEM FACTIONS BEHIND KARAME AS THEIR SPOKESMAN;

--A "PLENIPOTENTIARY MEETING" HELD BY FRANGIE AND KARAME TO WORK OUT COMPLETE DETAILS OF A SETTLEMENT;

--AN (UNSPECIFIED) "OUTSIDE FORCE" TO MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER UNTIL AN ADEQUATE LEBANESE POLICE FORCE IS BUILT UP.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE SETTLEMENT REPORT RAISES SOME HOPE, BUT SERIOUS OBSTACLES REMAIN, SUCH AS: THE QUESTION OF A CO-GUARANTOR; THE STICKY ISSUE OF AN OUTSIDE POLICE FORCE; THE PROBLEM OF UNITING THE MOSLEMS BEHIND KARAME; AND THE ATMOSPHERE OF ALMOST TOTAL DISTRUST ON BOTH SIDES. (CONFIDENTIAL) BEIRUT 15637, 12/30.)

## 2. STONEWALLING UNESCO

THE ARAB HARDLINERS ARE LIKELY TO RAISE AND PRESS SUCCESSFULLY THE "ZIONISM-RACISM" ISSUE AT THE JANUARY UNESCO MEETING WITH THE RELUCTANT SUPPORTING VOTES OF THE OTHER ARABS, SOVIET BLOC COUNTRIES AND LDCS. OUR PERMANENT DELEGATION RECOMMENDS, THEREFORE, THAT, IN CONCERT WITH WESTERN EUROPEAN NATIONS AND MODERATE LDCS, THE US SHOULD:

--REQUEST A POSTPONEMENT OF THE MEETING; OR

--IF IT IS HELD, NOT PARTICIPATE. (CONFIDENTIAL) PARIS 33826, 12/30.) ROBINSON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, POLICIES, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, MORNING SUMMARY, POLITICAL SITUATION, CIVIL DISORDERS, MEETINGS, ZIONISM  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 DEC 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975STATE305278  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** O: COLE  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750451-0215  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t1975124/aaaaacrv.tel  
**Line Count:** 95  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN SSO  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 27 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <27 MAY 2003 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <08 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINS, OCON, SHUM, LE, SY, XF, UNESCO  
**To:** NSA MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006